



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

PROGRAM E-SPOTLIGHT

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UKRAINE

Mission Director Meets with Executive Interns

USAID Mission Director Earl Gast hosted 23 future Ukrainian leaders from the USAID-supported NDI Executive Internship Program at a reception on March 17. The 23 interns are part of a USAID effort in conjunction with the Ukrainian government to create a pool of new young leaders for Ukraine's civil service. Members of the group had just returned from one of three countries - Poland, Lithuania and Latvia - where they had spent the last three months studying how democratic governments work there.



Earl Gast (left) with NDI interns

U.S. Embassy Charge d'Affaires Sheila Gwaltney noted that the governments of these countries have already announced their willingness and interest to host more Ukrainian interns. "The Prime Minister of Latvia in a conversation with President Yushchenko praised the exceptional qualities and dedication of NDI's interns," Ms. Gwaltney said. The Czech Republic, Slovakia, Hungary, Estonia and Slovenia have expressed interest in participating in the Executive Interns initiative as well.

Partnerships are Vital for Ukraine

USAID Deputy Mission Director Karen Hilliard participated in a roundtable organized by the Ukraine 3000 Foundation, an NGO chaired by Ukraine's First Lady Kateryna Yushchenko. The conference was dedicated to developing family medical care in Ukraine, and brought together dozens of Ukrainian and international NGOs. In her remarks, Ms. Hilliard described USAID/Ukraine's contributions to improving the health of Ukrainians and explained that strong partnerships are the key to successful development assistance.



Karen Hilliard (right) discusses health issues with Kateryna Yushchenko (left) during the conference

USAID BIZPRO Sponsors Investment Forum

USAID/Ukraine Mission Director Earl Gast joined Ukraine's Minister of Construction Pavlo Kachur for the opening of the "Made in Ukraine: Construction Materials Investment Forum," held in Kyiv on March 23. USAID's BIZPRO project and the American Chamber of Commerce in Ukraine co-sponsored the event, which was organized to provide current and potential strategic and financial investors with an in-depth look at the construction materials sector in Ukraine and the investment opportunities available. "While heavy industry has traditionally accounted for the bulk of Ukraine's GDP, the

economy must diversify if economic growth and job creation are to continue,” explained USAID Mission Director Gast.



Earl Gat (left) listens to a trade exposition exhibitor

The investment forum took place alongside Kyiv's Made in Ukraine Fair, the most current of several trade expositions that BIZPRO and AmCham have sponsored in various locations throughout Ukraine. The fairs are an attempt to connect the divide between Ukrainian enterprises and potential foreign partners through a series of targeted trade and investment promotion events.

Early Intervention Training to Help HIV+ Mothers

On March 3-6, 2006, the Ukraine Prevention of Abandonment of Children Born to HIV-Positive Mothers (MAMA+) Project, implemented by Doctors of the World, organized an Early Intervention Training in Kyiv. The purpose of the event was to introduce Early Intervention techniques to psychologists, social and medical workers and other relevant professionals providing services for at-risk young mothers and their children.

MAMA+ case management teams from all three project sites took part in the training, including project partners from participating hospitals in Donetsk and Kyiv and additional program personnel of the All-Ukrainian Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS.

Early Intervention is a very specific methodology of communication with newborn babies and children under 18 months of age, broadly applied

to such areas as child development and counseling. The theory is a mixture of behavioralism and psychoanalysis, and focuses on child and mother interaction. According to the theory, even a seven-hour newborn baby can prompt a care-giving dialogue with his/her caring adult.



R. Mukhamedrakhimov, professor at Saint Petersburg State University, delivers early intervention training for MAMA+ project

MAMA+ Project is a two-year pilot, implemented by DOW in Kyiv, Donetsk and the Crimea in close partnership with the All-Ukrainian Network of People Living with HIV/AIDS. The overall purpose of the Project is to build Ukrainian infrastructure, capacity, and commitment to keep children born to HIV+ mothers within the biological family environment.

Upcoming Events

April 13-14, BIZPRO, Crimean Tourism Investment Forum, Sudak, Crimea.

April 15, CIPA-Ukraine Project, General Meeting of the Ukrainian Association of Certified Accountants and Auditors (UACAA), Kyiv.

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MOLDOVA

U.S. Volunteer Receives Presidential Service Award for its Work in Moldova

U.S. Ambassador Heather M. Hodges presented the President's Volunteer Service Award to Norval Dvorak of Manitowoc, Wisconsin, for his work as a volunteer in Moldova under USAID's Farmer-to-Farmer Program. President George W. Bush established the Service Award in 2003 which honors those who have demonstrated outstanding volunteer service and civic participation over the course of a 12-month period.



*Norval Dvorak, US Ambassador to Moldova
Heather Hodges and Tersimeda Cooperative
members at the unique US-type calf-feeding lot in
Dusmani village*

Dvorak, an 84-year old retired farmer and founder of numerous cooperatives in Wisconsin, is a well-known and respected specialist in Moldova, having helped organize and strengthen several cooperatives in Moldovan villages over the past three years. His latest assignment in the village of Dusmani in March 2005 focused on revitalizing a farm service cooperative to become a competitive and profitable business. Norval knew that Tersimeda cooperative members were struggling with marketing their output and suggested setting up a US-type calf-feeding lot. Not only would this lot provide a market for locally produced grain, it would also serve as a useful educational tool for farmers, changing their notions of business

management and farming practices, enhancing quality and improving marketing techniques.

Back in Manitowoc, Wisconsin, Dvorak and several colleagues created a project for the Moldovans to purchase over 30 calves, reconstruct the village barn, build hutches, and develop a feeding program for the calves. Dvorak and this Manitowoc Group eventually raised over \$10,000 and returned to Moldova, using their donations to purchase calves from local villagers and prepare feed for winter. Working together, the Farmer-to-Farmer Program and Dvorak helped 71 people associated with the Tersimeda cooperative to increase their incomes in 2005.

Upcoming Events

April 7, Rule of Law Program, Anti-corruption training at Balti Legal Clinic, Balti, Moldova.

April 14, BIZPRO, One Stop Shop Opening, Soroca, Moldova.

April 14, Competitiveness Enhancement and Enterprise Development (CEED) Project, Round table on "Support commercialization of Patented Innovations in Wine Sector," Chisinau.

April 14, BIZPRO, Round table, Regulatory Reform Promotion in Hincesti, Hincesti, Moldova.

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